

The Library Assistant:

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APRIL MEETING.

This meeting will be held at the St. Bride Institute, Bride Lane, E.C., on **April 20th**, when a paper by Mr. P. E. Lewin, on "Records and Research Work," will be read. This paper will be followed by one on "Children's Libraries," by Mrs. Cutler Fairchild, of the United States, and will be illustrated with lantern slides.

The first meeting will commence at **7.30 sharp**.

Visitors will be welcome.

MARCH MEETING AT WEST HAM.

The usual conditions prevailed at West Ham, on Wednesday, March 23rd, when Mr. W. J. Harris read his "Cotgreave" Prize Essay on the "Planning and Arrangement of a Public Library." About a hundred members and friends were present to do honour to Mr. Cotgreave's invitation and liberal hospitality. Among the visitors were Messrs. Chennell, Frowde, Moon, Plant, Saxton, Seymour, and Alderman Williams, J.P., Chairman of the West Ham Libraries Committee.

After all had refreshed the "inner man," and the fragrant weed had made its appearance, the business of the evening was commenced, Mr. Frowde presiding. After a few introductory remarks from the Chairman, Mr. Cotgreave rose, and again bid the Association welcome to West Ham, regretting only that even more were not present.

Mr. Harris then read his paper (which appears in this issue), after which the Chairman commented on a few of the points raised. Mr. Rees congratulated Mr. Harris on his essay, and enlarged upon the point of ventilation, emphasizing its importance.

Mr. Plant gave his experience also on the matter of ventilation, as well as on boys' and ladies' rooms. Mr. Hatton (Leyton)

thought, contrary to Mr. Harris, that electric light was cheaper than gas, and was of opinion that cork lino was generally more economical than wood blocks. Mr. Alderman Williams then addressed the meeting; he expressed his pleasure at being present, and seeing so many there who were engaged in library work. He had a great belief in the Public Library movement, and spoke eloquently on books and their influence and the assistants' opportunity in their dissemination.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Harris was proposed by Mr. Chennell, and seconded by Mr. Hatcher. Mr. Harris suitably replied, and referred to the various points raised. Votes of thanks to Mr. Cotgreave, Mr. Alderman Williams, the Libraries Committee, and the Chairman (Mr. Frowde) were formally moved, seconded, and carried with acclamation.

On leaving, each member was presented with a copy of Mr. Cotgreave's "Views and Memoranda of Public Libraries," a gift which was much appreciated.

THE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Committee was held at St. Saviour's Library, Southwark, on the 16th ult., when Messrs. Rees (in Chair), Bullen, Chambers, Coltman, Faraday, Harris, Hatcher, Hawkins, Hogg, MacDouall, Roebuck, Savage, Smith, and Thorne were present.

The resignation of Mr. Robert Stevenson was accepted with expressions of regret.

The scheme for the establishment of circuits, approved by the L. A. A. Committee, was carried out last month. Every person who was eligible for membership was circularized. Notwithstanding the printed date indicated for the receipt of replies only 70 were to hand in time for the March Meeting of the Executive. The final consideration of the scheme was therefore deferred until April 13th, by which date it is hoped that the remainder of the replies will be to hand, together with communications from official circles north of the Humber.

The usual routine business completed the proceedings.

NEW MEMBERS.

Junior.

NEAME, Mr. C. E., Public Library, Canterbury.

NOTE.—We regret that last month Mr. P. Farrow, of Tottenham, was gazetted as a Junior Member, and Mr. E. J. Parker, also of Tottenham, as a Senior. The reverse should have occurred.

THE PLANNING AND ARRANGEMENT OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY.

(By W. J. HARRIS.)

In the planning and arranging of a public library there are certain laws which experience teaches must be observed, without which it is difficult to have a useful and successful building. As it is impossible to make bricks without straw, so is it impossible to have good administration without a building properly situated, properly built, and properly planned.

The most essential attributes which go toward the popularisation of our public libraries are the internal arrangements upon which they are planned. How often do we see unfit and inconvenient structures? How often do we deplore the waste of public money on buildings in which the accommodation is either sacrificed to some architectural fad, or the various departments are placed in the most impractical positions, and when the librarian is appointed he is given a building where economical administration is a physical impossibility.

Probably the chief reason why our libraries are often so wretchedly planned is not far to seek. It is generally conceded that an architect is capable of planning a library, when as a matter of fact an architect generally overlooks those great essentials, which, to the uninitiated, may appear as trivial, yet to the practical librarian are of the greatest importance and benefit.

That committee is a wise one which first obtains the opinion of a good librarian as to its requirements; and wiser still are they who appoint their librarian before the building is erected. This will be found the truest economy, for during the building of the library the Committee will have expert advice, and the time can be well utilised by the librarian in the purchase of books, cataloguing and general administration.

The library building should always be situated in the main or business thoroughfare. No matter how fine the building may be, a library situated away from the life of the people seldom if ever becomes popular, for libraries should always occupy a prominent position in the town or district they are intended to serve. Libraries require as much advertising in their own particular way as any business.

SITE.

The next great essential is that of site. Of what should it consist? A site for a library building should be as detached as possible, and light should be provided on at least three sides of it. The best position for a library is a corner one, and the endeavour should be to obtain a larger site than will at first be necessary to allow of future extension and development.

Upon the shape of the site will depend the disposition of the various rooms, but the accommodation that should be provided in a good library ought to consist of the following:—Lending library, reference library, reading rooms (one or two, according to the size of the library) for newspapers and magazines; librarian's office, strong room, a good spacious lobby and hall; staff room, and, where they can be afforded, such rooms as cataloguing and binding rooms, etc.

It is generally considered best, where the site will allow, to have all departments upon one floor; but when this is impossible the reference library is best relegated to the first floor. In many libraries the lobby is now used for the early morning newspapers (advertisement sheets). This is a decided improvement on the "board on the railing" idea, for in case of rain the papers and consultants are under cover.

GENERAL PLAN.

There are recognised principles to be observed in the disposition of the

various rooms, and the rule is to place the most used departments within easy access of the street. In this way the reading and magazine rooms usually find a place in the front of the building, whereas the library portion proper—*i.e.*, the reference and lending libraries—are allocated to the rear. This is not only economically correct, but it also gives these departments that quietness which is so essential here.

SPECIAL ROOMS.

With regard to special rooms for ladies, children, etc., the present condition of the fixed limit on the library rate does not adequately allow of these rooms being provided for in a manner that is conducive to their success. The treatment of children as a class apart is, we think, quite unnecessary. In some of the American libraries the "Children's Libraries" question has been worked to death. We doubt also very much if ladies prefer to use a separate room to the general public, a table or two specially set aside for them is all that is required.

OVERSIGHT.

In the more recent planning of public libraries the endeavour has been to obtain as much supervision as possible from one given point, and this is best done by means of glass partitions, exception being made in the reference department where glass screens would be too distracting.

MAGAZINE AND NEWS ROOMS.

The magazine and news rooms are best situated in the front of the building. This gives them easy access from the street and quietness is not so essential here as in the reference and lending departments. In the arrangement of these rooms, great care must be taken that the lighting (of which we shall speak at greater length later), both natural and artificial is abundant. It has become customary of late not to provide chairs in the news room, but to arrange all papers on stands. This helps to exclude the undesirable loafer, and has been found to work very satisfactorily. The position of the reading stands will largely be determined by the position of the windows, and where the room has been properly planned, are built to allow the stands being placed in proper relation thereto, whereby the full value of light is secured. Where top lighting is available the arrangement of the stands is comparatively easy. In a room 45-ft. by 30-ft. accommodation can be provided for four double stands 10-ft. long holding 16 papers, and two double stands of 12ft. to take 12 small papers, with about 50ft. of wall stands to hold 10 papers.

The magazine room is best furnished with chairs and tables and the accommodation should be considered on the same basis as the news room.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

The next department to consider is the lending library, and before we determine the planning of this room we have first to decide the system of issue that will be employed there, for a material difference will be necessary from the recognised indicator system, should open access be adopted. The first essential to success in all lending libraries is sufficient space, for this department grows more rapidly than is usually anticipated. Where the indicator is used, plenty of space must be allowed in the borrowers' lobby, and at least one fourth of the lending library must be devoted to that purpose. The counter should not be higher than 2-ft. 6-in. and 18in. wide, and sufficiently long for the display of books in showcases, plus the indicator. The arrangement of the book-stacks may vary, but the most economical method is to place them at right angles to the counter, not nearer than 4-ft. The cases in a closed library may stand somewhat closer than in an open one, but not nearer than 3-ft. for convenience, and carried to a greater height, although it is not advisable

to have them too high or much time will be wasted by the assistants on the ladders.

The shelving capacity of books in a lending library may be calculated at about 100 books for every 12-ft. of shelving, but often a much larger number can be shelved. The length of each shelf should not be more than 3-ft., for if longer the weight of the books causes it to bend.

The arrangement of an open library differs materially to that of a closed one. The borrowers' lobby in a closed library is occupied by the service counter in an open one, and while the shelving capacity will not be as great, yet, as the service counter does not usually take up the same area as the borrowers' lobby in a closed library, we are inclined to believe there is not such a great difference between the shelving capacities of the two systems. In an open library it is advisable to have the cases a little wider apart, 4-ft. to 5-ft. being about the average widths.

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

The reference library should always be situated in close proximity to the lending department, when economy of service and administration will naturally result, and also allows of the quick supply of the lending library books to this department. Provision must be made here for more books than in the lending library owing to the fact that the books in this department are of a more permanent character. Reference books average about eight to a foot and the estimate for shelving should be based on that calculation. Most of our libraries are adopting open access in their reference departments in some form or other; either by placing the most called-for books on open shelves, or giving access to the whole stock. The planning and arrangement of this room is seldom carried out successfully and is often used as a dumping ground either for an unintelligible museum, or as a kind of special magazine room—a feature warranted to destroy that peace and quietness so essential here. The arrangement of this room should allow the readers to place themselves directly in front of the books they may wish to consult (we are taking for granted that the library is classified). It is a mistake to provide the conventional long table in this room, for it is impossible to study when in too close proximity to another person. True study is the concentration of thoughts. The solution to the difficulty is the provision of small tables, one to each reader, or an arrangement similar to the British Museum. The flooring of this room should be of a soft material such as cork lino so as to render the room as noiseless as possible, for there is nothing more annoying than the noise of tramping feet and the scraping of chairs. The decoration should be subordinate, for a library too highly decorated is not conducive to study, as, for example, the Boston Public Library, which is more in the nature of an art gallery. The main objects of a library must never be lost sight of *i.e.*, a building for the storage and use of books.

LIBRARIAN'S OFFICE.

The Librarian's Office in a small library should be near the lending library, for it is here he will be of the greatest service. In a large library where an efficient assistant is employed, it is best near the reference department. The office should be of a good size, with shelving accommodation, etc., for it is here the important work of administration will be done, and, should a strong room not be provided, the most valuable books will be kept here.

STAFF ROOM.

Every library, irrespective of size, should have a Staff Room, fitted with lockers, etc., and with facilities for heating food. The awkward hours of most library assistants makes it imperative they should have a retiring room, and that it should be comfortably furnished.

Having dealt with the essentials that make toward the planning of a good library, we will deal with those details such as heating and ventilation, lighting, floor coverings and decoration, which, although of lesser importance in themselves, yet in the aggregate go to make a well-arranged building comfortable and popular.

HEATING AND VENTILATION.

One of the most discussed points in library practice is that of heating and ventilation. The most economical method of heating a library is by hot-water pipes at low pressure. By no means allow open grates to be installed, for not only do they require constant attention, but they create more dust, and are at all times a great attraction to the itinerant lounge. Provision for hot-water pipes should always be made in the building contract and not left until after the building has been completed, or much difficulty will result. The bane of our public libraries is ventilation. The "Golden Age" of ventilation is not yet. We are inclined to think that librarians, or more especially their assistants, do not give this subject that practical attention it deserves, for ventilation is after all not such a difficult matter, for with a discreet manipulation of the windows and doors much may be accomplished. One of the best methods is in conjunction with the radiators, the cold air being drawn through the radiators and into the room in a warm condition. There are many other excellent forms of ventilation, by means of fans, etc., more or less expensive.

LIGHTING.

But first and foremost good lighting is absolutely necessary, and a library is hampered in its work without a good supply of light. Sacrifice, if necessary, external ornateness for the benefit of internal lighting. A library cannot have too many windows, nor can they be too large. Narrow windows, or windows in imitation of certain styles of architecture, cannot be too strongly condemned. With regard to artificial light, the electric is the light par excellence, but unfortunately, like the best of everything it is expensive. Where electric light is impossible gas will have to be installed, but gas lighting is always unsatisfactory, being dirty and unhealthy. The best gas lighting, however, is by means of incandescent burners, which provide a good and penetrating white light.

FLOOR COVERINGS.

It is generally conceded that wood block is the most useful covering for library floors; the initial outlay is expensive, the blocks having to be laid upon a cement foundation, but it is best to provide for wood floors in the first instance, this proving the most economical in the end. Mosaic or tiled floors, excepting for lobbies and lavatories, should always be avoided, owing to the great noise they create. In the reference, as we have said before, a good cork lino should be laid if it can be afforded, as this will ensure almost perfect quiet, a result devoutly to be wished.

DECORATION, ETC.

The exterior of a library should be ornate, suggestive, and attractive. All internal decoration should be carried out in light tasteful colours, and a dado of tiles should line the walls to a height of not less than 5-ft. Tiling, if at all decorative, is very pleasing, and for cleanliness nothing can beat it. The sight of dirty paint shoulder high round a room is very obnoxious.

A library planned upon the lines we have suggested, we are hopeful in saying will give every satisfaction, and the disposition of the different departments will give complete supervision, a not unimportant factor in the economy of library practice.

SHORT LIST OF BOOKS OF USE TO THE STUDENT OF PUBLIC
AND LOCAL RECORDS, LOCAL HISTORY, AND GENEALOGY.

By P. EVANS LEWIN.

(Printed in connection with Mr. Lewin's paper to be read at the
April meeting.)

DECIPHERMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS.

- 1750 Nouveau Traité de Diplomatie. 6 v. 1750—65.
1776 Wright (Andrew). Court Hand Restored. 1776.
(Best ed. 1879, by C. T. Martin. Contains glossaries, lists of
abbreviations, specimens of old handwritings.)
Sylvestre's Universal Palæography.
1892 Martin (C. T.) The Record Interpreter. 1892.
Scott (H. T.) Autograph Collecting.
(Elem. Specimens of handwritings.)

ABBREVIATIONS AND CHRONOLOGY.

- 1783 L'Art de Vérifier les Dates. 9 v. 1783—1831.
1833 Nicolas (Sir N. H.) Chronology of History. 1833.
1841 Savage (William). Dictionary of Printing. 1841.
(Article on Records, with list of Abbreviations.)
1846 Chassant (L. A.) Dictionnaire des Abréviations du Moyen Âge. 1846.

TERMS AND PHRASES.

- 1729 Jacobs (Giles). Law Dictionary. 1729.
(Best ed. 1835.)
1733 Du Fresne (C., *Seign. du Cange*). Glossarium medial et infirmæ
Latinatis. 6 v. 1733—66.
(Reprinted 1840—45.)
1788 Kelham (Robert). Domesday Book. Illustrated. 1788.
(Glossary of terms, etc.)

SOURCES OF BRITISH HISTORY.

- 1894 Gardiner (Samuel R.) and Mullinger (J. B.). Introduction to the
Study of English History. 1894.
1900 Lee (Guy C.) Leading Documents of English History and a Biblio-
graphy of Sources. 1900.
1900 Gross (Charles). See Local Records.

BRITISH PUBLIC RECORDS.

- 1719 The State of the Public Records of the Kingdom (Report of Com-
mittee of the House of Lords, 1719). 1723.
1772 Report from Committee of House of Commons—Commons' Journals,
33, p. 775 (May 20, 1772). Reprinted 1773.
1801 Reports from the Committee appointed to inquire into the State of
the Public Records, 1801. Reprinted in House of Commons'
Reports, vol. 15.
(Exhaustive report, basis of all further reports, resulted in appoint-
ment of Record Commission.)
1810 Reports from the Commissioners appointed to execute the measures
recommended respecting the Records of Ireland, 1810—1815.
1831 Cooper (Charles P.) Public Records: a description of the various
works printed by the Record Commission. 1831.
1832 Cooper (Charles P.) Account of the most important Public Records
of Great Britain. 2 v. 1832.
1834 Hunter (Joseph). Introduction to the Valor Ecclesiasticus of King
Henry VIII., etc. 1834.

- 1835 Hardy (Sir Thomas Duffus). Introduction to the Close and Patent Rolls. 1833—5.
 1837 Hardy (Sir Thomas Duffus). Introduction to the Charter Rolls of King John. 1837.
 1837 General Report from the Commissioners on Public Records. 1837.
 1840 Annual Reports of the Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records. 1840—1893.
 1852 Hardy (Sir Thomas Duffus). Memoirs of Lord Langdale. 1852.
 (Describes state of National archives.)
 1853 Thomas (F. S.) Official Handbook to the Public Records. 1853.
 1869 Sainsbury (W. N.) The State Paper Office.
 (In the Deputy-Keeper's Thirtieth Report, Appendix, 1869.)
 1869 Annual Reports of the Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records in Ireland. 1869—1899.
 1873 Ewald (A. C.) Our Public Records. 1873.
 1888 Rye (Walter). Records and Record Searching. 1888.
 (Introduction to the Art of Searching for materials, historical, topographical, genealogical, and legal.)
 1890 Ewald (A. C.) Paper and Parchment Record Office Studies. 1890.
 (Popular.)
 1891 Bird (S. R. Scargill-). Guide to the Principal Classes of Documents preserved in the Public Record Office. 1891.
 1892 Public Record Office: Lists and Indexes. 15 v. 1892—1902.
 (Of great use to the local antiquary.)
 Reports and Appendixes of the Historical Manuscripts Commission.
 (See also various introductions to the "Chronicles and Memorials"
 "Calendars of State Papers.")

FOREIGN PUBLIC RECORDS.

- 1890 Löher (Franz von). Archivlehre: Grundzüge der Geschichte, Aufgaben, und Einrichtung unserer Archive. 1890.
 1891 Langlois (S. V.) and Stein (Henri). Les Archives de l'Histoire de France: Manuels de Bibliographie Historique.
 (Deals not only with France, but England and other countries).

BRITISH LOCAL RECORDS.

- 1897 Gross (Charles). Bibliography of British Municipal History. 1897.
 (Introduction gives chief sources and critical account of the modern literature. Bibliography gives an estimate of value of the books. Each town and county treated individually).
 1900 Gross (Charles). Sources and Literature of English History to about 1485. 1900.
 (Gives a list of Local Records and Annals, pp. 400-467).
 1902 Report of the Committee appointed to enquire as to the existing arrangements for the custody of Local Records with Appendices. 2 v. 1902.

LEGAL RECORDS.

- 1807 Bridgman (R. W.) Short View of Legal Bibliography. 1807.
 BRITISH AND FOREIGN GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY.
 1823 Nicolas (Sir N. H.) Index to Heralds' Visitations. 1823.
 1828 Grimaldi (Stacey, Marquess Grimaldi). Origines Genealogicae; or sources whence English genealogies may be traced. 1828.
 (The pioneer of the subject).
 1861 Sims (Richard). Manual for Genealogist, Topographer, Antiquary, and Legal Professor. 1861.
 (Lists of the Public Records and printed Heraldic Collections, &c., best handbook yet published).

- 1865 Huytens (J.) *L'Art de vérifier les Généalogies des Families Belges et Hollandaises.* 1865.
 1866 Bridger (Charles). *Index to Printed Pedigrees of English Families.* 1866—7.
 1866 Coleman (James). *General Index to Printed Pedigrees.* 1866.
 1879 Marshall (G. W.) *The Genealogists' Guide.* 1879.
 (Best ed. 1903. *An index of pedigrees in genealogical and topographical works.*)
 1886 Durrie (Daniel S.) *Bibliographia Genealogia Americana.* 1886.
 1887 Phillimore (W. P. W.) *How to write the History of a Family.* 1887.
 (Elem. but useful).
 1892 Gatfield (George). *Guide to Printed Books and Manuscripts relating to Heraldry and Genealogy.* 1892.
 1899 Munsell (Joel). *List of Titles of Genealogical Articles in American Periodicals.* 1899.
 1900 Munsell (Joel). *The American Genealogist, a Catalogue of Family Histories.* 1900.

THE PARISH AND PARISH REGISTERS.

- 1764 Bigland (Ralph). *Observations on Parochial Registers.* 1764.
 1829 Burn (J. S.) *Registrum Ecclesiae Parochialis: A History of Parish Registers.* 1829.
 (Best ed. 1862).
 1854 Smith (Joshua Toulmin). *The Parish.* 1854.
 (Best ed. 1857).
 1879 Gomme (G. L.) *Index to Municipal Offices.* 1879.
 (Gives list of every kind of officer employed in local government; past or present).
 1882 Waters (R. E. Chester). *Parish Registers in England.* 1882.
 (Best ed. 1887).
 1891 Marshall (G. W.) *List of Printed Parish Registers.* 1891.
 (For Parochial System see *Nomina Villarum, Nonarum Inquisitonum*).

WILLS.

- 1895 Marshall (G. W.) *Handbook of the Ancient Courts of Probate and Depositories of Wills.* 1895.

BRITISH TOPOGRAPHY.

- 1768 Gough (Richard). *Account of what has been done for illustrating the Topographical Antiquities of Great Britain and Ireland.* 1768.
 (Best ed. 1780, in 2v.)
 1818 Upcott (William). *Bibliographical Account of the Principal Works relating to English Topography.* 3v. 1818.
 1863 Hotten (J. C.) *Handbook to the Topography and Family History of England and Wales.* 1863.
 1881 Anderson (J. P.) *Book of British Topography.* 1881.
 (Best ed. 1900. *Contains lists of local histories and pamphlets.*)

EXAMPLES OF LOCAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES.

- 1880 Thomson (P. G.) *A Bibliography of the State of Ohio and a complete index of subjects.* 1880.
 (One of the best local American bibliographies).
 1889 Boase (G. L.) *Collectanea Cornubiensia: a Collection of Biographical and Topographical notes relating to the County of Cornwall.* 1889.
 (Also his *Bibliotheca Cornubiensis*—both excellent local bibliographies).

1902 Green (Emanuel). *Bibliotheca Somersetensis: a Catalogue of Books, Pamphlets, etc., in some way connected with the County of Somerset.* 3v. 1902.

PERIODICALS.

American Historical Review, Ancestor, Antiquary, English Historical Review, Genealogical Magazine, Genealogist, Herald and Genealogist Notes and Queries, Reliquary.

INDEX.

Decipherment of Manuscripts.
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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We learn that, at a meeting of the N.W. Branch of the Library Association, held in the John Rylands Library, Manchester, on March 3rd, Mr. Edward McKnight, Librarian of the Chorley Public Library, and a former member of the L.A.A., moved: "That the Summer School Committee be requested to consider the desirability of arranging classes in Library Economy in connection with the Manchester and other Technical Schools, similar to the classes held by the Education Committee of the L.A. in connection with the London School of Economics." This was seconded by Mr. Ernest Axon, and carried unanimously. Thus the first step is taken. There is no lack of competent lecturers in that neighbourhood, and the Manchester Technical School, at any rate, would probably be prepared to meet the Committee half-way; thus the second step presents no insurmountable difficulty. The real obstacle will most likely be the apathy of the assistants. But we would urge those of our readers who are in that district to give their whole-hearted support to the movement, let them *now* say honestly that if the classes are established they will attend. Let there be no quibbling as to whether the subjects chosen are the most useful subjects, or whether the probable examination is of the right kind. First let the organisers see that the classes are appreciated and supported, *then* without doubt they will be willing to reconstruct any such part of their programme as may be required, so far as is compatible with a high level of efficiency. We continually urge that librarianship is not yet what it will have to be, and, in consequence, assistants should seize every opportunity for improving themselves, so that when the time comes they may be qualified to undertake the duties of true librarianship.

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The L.A. Syllabus for the May examination, now obtainable, is an interesting document. The average assistant will probably peruse it with a shrug of the shoulders, feeling that it is far too elaborate. But the minority, who rejoice in their profession, will regard it as a chart and compass for their guidance, and a definite exposition of the requirements

of librarianship. We observe a new clause requires that candidates for the examination must have served a certain period in the practical work of a library. We are informed that Mr. J. D. Brown has consented to conduct a correspondence class in the autumn of this year, and suggests sections 5 (Library History and Organisation) and 6 (Practical Library Administration) of the new Syllabus. All information to be had of Mr. H. D. Roberts, 44a Southwark Bridge Road, S.E. While on this subject, we may mention that Mr. H. D. Roberts is going to deliver a course of three lectures on "Library Management," including Committee Work, Library Legislation, Routine and Office Work, Aids to Readers, etc., beginning April 13th. Fee for the course, 5s.

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The chapter on "The Organisation of the Library Service" in Mr. Sidney Webb's recently published "London Education" deserves the perusal of all our readers. To some it will not be new, as it is the substance of a paper read before the Library Association just two years ago, but its message is unaltered, and its importance is sufficient to warrant another reading. Mr. Webb is not complimentary to the Library Service, he calls the 200 libraries in London "200 heaps of books," and is astounded that the authorities of one "heap" should be densely ignorant as to what is contained in the next "heap!" We agree with Mr. Webb that this state of affairs is deplorable, and sigh with him for the days when all libraries will be administered from one common centre, when one system shall prevail, when all books shall be catalogued according to one plan, when the interchange of tickets between one borough and another shall be an accomplished fact, when public libraries shall indeed be the "Universities for the People," as it was intended they should be. This day is not yet, but it must come, and it behoves the assistant to prepare for it, to make ready, and to look to this as his ideal of what the Public Library Service should be.

Bridgewater.—At the Town Council the Mayor announced the receipt of a letter from Mr. Carnegie offering £3,000 towards establishing a Public Library in the borough.

Brierley Hill.—The combined Technical Institute and Public Library was recently opened. Although Brierley Hill adopted the Public Libraries Act in the early seventies, it has only just secured a building, thanks to Mr. Carnegie, worthy of its purpose.

British Museum.—The new building at Hendon, which is in course of erection for the reception of the newspapers at present stored in the British Museum, is making such progress that it is expected to be finished by the end of June. The number of newspapers published in the United Kingdom, received at the Museum last year under the provisions of the Copyright Act, was 3,222, comprising 199,067 single numbers. In addition to these, 221 sets containing 28,735 numbers of colonial and foreign newspapers were presented, and 78 sets, containing 122 volumes and 14,633 numbers of current colonial and foreign newspapers, were purchased.

Eastbourne.—The new Public Library and Technical Institute is nearing completion and promises to be a handsome structure. The accommodation provided is for a lending library, reference library, magazine and news-room, and a ladies' reading room, besides a large museum. The cost of the library portion of the building is £10,000, a gift from Mr. Carnegie.

Greenwich.—Steps are to be taken to raise a loan of £950 to complete the purchase of the site for a Central Library in the Woolwich Road.

VACANCY.

We understand there is a vacancy in a South African Library for a well-educated youth, age between 18 and 20 years, at a salary of £140 rising to £160 at the end of twelve months. Second class passage out will be allowed. Preference will be given to a member of the L.A.A., or a student of the L.A. Classes. Intending applicants should apply, before the 12th April, to Mr. W. Geo. Chambers, Public Library, Woolwich.

APPOINTMENTS.

BAKER, Mr. E. A., Librarian of the Midland Railway Institute, Derby, to be Librarian of Wallasey. Mr. Baker is the author of "A Guide to the Best Fiction," etc.

The other selected candidates were Messrs. Maw (King's Lynn). *Savage (Croydon), Willcock (Peterborough), and two untrained men.

***CHAMBERS, Mr. W. G.**, Senior Assistant Librarian. Woolwich Public Libraries, to be Librarian-in-Charge, Plumstead District Library.

***COLTMAN, Mr. W. L.**, Senior Assistant, Woolwich, to be Senior Assistant, Plumstead.

***USHERWOOD, Mr. V. B.**, Junior, Woolwich Public Library, to be Junior Assistant, Plumstead District Library.

***SAVAGE, Mr. E. A.**, Sub-Librarian, Croydon, to be Librarian of the Public Library, Bromley, Kent.

Out of 114 applicants, the other selected candidates were Messrs. Harris (Hornsey), Rivers (Hampstead), and Roebuck (Stepney), all members of the L.A.A. Committee.

WALKER, Mr. Herbert, Librarian of Longton, to be Secretary, Librarian, and Collector, Ipswich Institute.

* Member of L.A.A.

NOTICE.

Members who have not paid their subscriptions for the current year are requested to forward the same to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. Geo. Chambers, Public Library, Woolwich, without delay.